

IN THE CLAIMS:

49. (Original) A method for controlling access to a continuous stream of a content transmitted over a plurality of communication paths, the method comprising:

transmitting from a server a plurality of notifications for determining a sequence of transmission of said continuous stream of said content via a plurality of communication paths;

obtaining by a client said plurality of notifications;

transmitting from said server said continuous stream of said content via said plurality of communication paths according to said sequence of transmission; and

obtaining by said client said continuous stream of said content by automatically switching communication paths in accordance with said sequence of transmission of said content based on said plurality of obtained notifications.

50. (Original) The method of Claim 49, wherein said plurality of notifications are transmitted from said server at irregular intervals.

51. (Original) The method of Claim 49, wherein said sequence of transmission of said content determines which communication paths contain which parts of said continuous stream of said content at a given time.

52. (Original) The method of Claim 49, wherein said plurality of notifications are each encrypted prior to transmission from said server.

53. (Original) The method of Claim 52, wherein said client comprises a descrambler for decrypting said plurality of notifications and wherein said plurality of encrypted notifications are decrypted by said descrambler prior to said obtaining by said client said continuous stream of said content.

54. (Original) The method of Claim 52, wherein said continuous stream of said content is not encrypted prior to transmission on said plurality of communication paths.

55. (Cancelled).

56. (Original) The method of Claim 49, further comprising viewing said continuous stream of said content via said client without being aware of said automatically switching of said communication paths.

57. (Original) The method of Claim 49, wherein said switching of said communication paths prevents a non-authorized viewer from viewing said continuous stream of said content.

58. (Original) A method for controlling access to a content having a plurality of parts transmitted over a plurality of communication paths, the method comprising:

transmitting an encrypted notification of a communication path on which a part of said content will be transmitted at a given time;

transmitting said part of said content on said communication path at said given time;

transmitting another encrypted notification of another communication path on which another part of said content will be transmitted at another given time; and

transmitting said another part of said content on said another communication path at said another given time.

59. (Original) The method of Claim 58, wherein said transmitting said another encrypted notification and said transmitting said another part of said content are repeated until all parts of said content have been transmitted.

60. (Original) The method of Claim 58, wherein said content comprises a continuous stream of an individual television program.

61. (Original) The method of Claim 58, wherein said plurality of notifications are transmitted at irregular intervals.

62. (Original) The method of Claim 58, further comprising viewing said plurality of parts of said content via an authorized client, wherein each of said plurality of notifications is decrypted at said authorized client prior to transmission of said corresponding part of said content.

63. (Original) The method of Claim 62, wherein said plurality of parts of said content are not encrypted prior to transmission on said plurality of communication paths.

64. (Original) The method of Claim 58, further comprising viewing said plurality of parts of said content via a client that automatically switches to said communication path and to said another communication path based on said plurality of notifications.

65. (Original) The method of Claim 58, wherein said transmitting said part of said content on said communication path and said transmitting said another part of said content on said another communication path prevent a non-authorized viewer from viewing said plurality of parts of said content.

66. (Original) A method for controlling access to a content having a plurality of parts transmitted over a plurality of communication paths, the method comprising:

transmitting a notification of a communication path on which a part of said content will be transmitted at a given time from a server to a client;

switching automatically by said client of said communication path;

transmitting said part of said content on said communication path at said given time to said client;

viewing said part of said content on said communication path via said client;

transmitting another notification of another communication path on which another part of said content will be transmitted at another given time from said server to said client;

switching automatically by said client of said another communication path;

transmitting said another part of said content on said another communication path at said another given time to said client; and

viewing said another part of said content on said communication path via said client.

67. (Original) The method of Claim 66, wherein said transmitting said another notification, said automatic switching by said client of said another communication path, said transmitting said another part of said content, and said viewing said another part of said content are all repeated until all parts of said content have been transmitted.

68. (Original) The method of Claim 66, wherein said content comprises a continuous stream of an individual television program.

69. (Original) The method of Claim 66, wherein said plurality of notifications are transmitted at irregular intervals.

70. (Original) The method of Claim 66, wherein said plurality of notifications are each encrypted prior to transmission from said server.

71. (Original) The method of Claim 70, wherein said plurality parts of said content are not encrypted prior to transmission from said server.

72. (Original) The method of Claim 66, wherein said transmitting said part of said content of said communication path, said automatically switching to said communication path, said transmitting said another part of said content on said another communication path, and said automatically switching to said another communication path prevent a non-authorized viewer from viewing said plurality of parts of said content.

73. (Original) A method for controlling access to a content transmitted over a plurality of communication paths, the method comprising:

transmitting to a subset of a plurality of clients in a secure manner mapping information for a content transmitted over said plurality of communication paths to said plurality of clients;

switching automatically by said subset of said plurality of clients to a communication path of said plurality of communication paths that is transmitting said content;

signaling said subset of said plurality of clients with modified mapping information on a repeated basis during a course of a viewed presentation; and

switching automatically by said subset of said plurality of clients to a modified communication path of said plurality of communication paths based on said modified mapping information.

74. (Original) The method of Claim 73, wherein said switching automatically by said subset of said plurality of clients to said communication path and to said modified communication path are performed without interfering with a continuity of a presentation of said content on said subset of said plurality of clients.

75. (Original) The method of Claim 74, wherein said switching automatically by said subset of said plurality of clients to said communication path and to said modified communication path are performed without a viewer of said content knowing of said switching.

76. (Cancelled).

77. (Original) The method of Claim 74, wherein said signaling said plurality of clients with modified mapping information is repeated at irregular intervals.

78. (Original) The method of Claim 74, wherein said signaling said plurality of clients with modified mapping information is repeated at semi-random intervals.

79. (Original) The method of Claim 74, wherein said signaling said plurality of clients with modified mapping information is repeated at intervals determined dynamically.

80. (Original) The method of Claim 74, further comprising dynamically selecting a next content transmission communication path.

81. (Original) The method of Claim 80, wherein said modified mapping information comprises an indication to allow for switching of said next transmission communication path at a given time.

82. (Original) The method of Claim 81, wherein said indication comprises a frame number of said content.

83. (Original) A system for controlling access to a content comprising:
a plurality of communication paths;
a server;
a plurality of notifications for determining a sequence of transmission of a content having a plurality of parts via said plurality of communication paths; and
a client coupled to said server via said plurality of communication paths;
wherein said plurality of notifications are transmitted from said server to said client;

wherein said plurality of parts of said content are transmitted from said server over said plurality of communication paths in accordance with said sequence of transmission; and

wherein said client obtains said plurality of parts of said content by automatically switching communication paths in accordance with said sequence of transmission of said content based on said plurality of obtained notifications.

84. (Original) The system of Claim 83, wherein said plurality of notifications are transmitted from said server at irregular intervals.

85. (Original) The system of Claim 83, wherein said sequence of transmission determines which communication paths contain which parts of said content at a given time.

86. (Original) The system of Claim 83, wherein said plurality of notifications are each encrypted prior to transmission from said server and wherein said plurality of notifications are decrypted at said client.

87. (Original) The system of Claim 86, wherein said plurality of parts of said content are not encrypted prior to transmission from said server.

88. (Original) The system of Claim 86, wherein said content comprises a continuous stream of an individual television program.

89. (Cancelled).

90. (Original) A system for controlling access to a content comprising:

a content having a plurality of parts;

a plurality of communication paths;

a server; and

a plurality of encrypted notifications, each of said plurality of encrypted notifications notifying a client of a communication path on which a corresponding part of said content will be transmitted at a given time;

wherein said server repeatedly transmits an encrypted notification of said plurality of notifications until all parts of said content have been transmitted.

91. (Original) The system of Claim 90, wherein said content comprises a continuous stream of an individual television program.

92. (Original) The system of Claim 90, wherein said plurality of notifications are transmitted from said server at irregular intervals.

93. (Original) The system of Claim 90, further comprising a client for obtaining said plurality of parts of said content and wherein each of said plurality of notifications is decrypted prior to said client obtaining said corresponding part of said content.

94. (Original) The system of Claim 93, wherein said plurality of parts of said content are not encrypted prior to transmission from said server.

95. (Original) The system of Claim 93, further comprising a client for obtaining said plurality of notifications and wherein said client obtains said plurality of parts of said content by automatically switching communication paths in accordance with a sequence of transmission of said content based on said plurality of obtained notifications.

96. (Original) A system for controlling access to a content comprising:

an individual television program having a plurality of parts;

a plurality of communication paths;

a selected client; and

a server coupled to said client via said plurality of communication paths, said server transmitting a notification to said client of a communication path of said plurality of communication paths on which a part of said program will be transmitted at a given time and transmitting another notification to said client of another communication path of said plurality of communication paths on which another part of said program will be transmitted at another given time;

wherein said client automatically switches to said communication path at said given time and automatically switches to said another communication path at said another given time;

wherein said plurality of notifications are transmitted from said server to said client at irregular intervals; and

wherein said plurality of notifications are each encrypted at said server.

97. (New) The method of claim 49, wherein said each of said plurality of communications paths is a frequency, and wherein said automatically switching communications paths includes changing a frequency over which said content is transmitted.

98. (New) The method of claim 73, wherein each of said plurality of communications paths is a frequency, and wherein said switching automatically by said subset to a communication path and said switching automatically by said subset of said plurality of clients to a modified communication path includes switching to a different frequency over which said content is transmitted.

99. (New) The system of claim 83, wherein each of said plurality of communication paths is a frequency, and wherein said switching communications paths includes switching a frequency over which said content is transmitted.